



**united states
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text

WORDS BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MEXICO CITY, FEBRUARY 20th, FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE BEING HELD AT THE SECRETARIA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES, TLATELOLCO, D.F.

His words follow:

Mr. Foreign Minister, ladies and gentlemen:

President Nixon has sent me here, accompanied by a distinguished congressional delegation, to express the concern of the United States for a new start in the Western Hemisphere relationship. We intend to listen to our colleagues from the Western Hemisphere with understanding and respect. We intend to respond with honesty and friendship. We plan to implement whatever we agree upon with great care.

The nations of the Western Hemisphere have always had a vision of a community based on decency and justice, but they have not always reached their vision. We are assembled here to make a new start in this direction, and we are hopeful because we have come here in a new spirit, and we are assembled here also because of a new imperative, the interdependence of nations.

To the peoples of the Americas I bring the friendship and dedication of the United States, and to the people of Mexico, where I have spent so many happy hours, I would like to express the gratitude for arranging this meeting and for making this meeting possible. And to my friend, the Foreign Minister of Mexico, I would like to say that it is always a great joy to have an opportunity to exchange ideas with him and with your President. Thank you very much.